

Scope of Work and History of Changes

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
CHARTER REVIEW
COMMITTEE

Overview

- July 9, 2016: Council Member Shannon G. Hardin and Mayor Andrew J. Ginther announce the formation of a charter review committee after the August special election:

“As Columbus grows, our City Council structure should adapt to meet our changing needs. This means having conversations throughout Columbus to collectively determine how our City Council looks and functions. Community input will be at the crux of this process as we look at the current vacancy appointment process, the number of council members, wards and numerous other potential changes”

- Council Member Shannon G. Hardin

Authority - Columbus City Charter § 236

- A charter review commission, composed of five qualified electors of the city, shall be appointed at the second regular meeting of council in the year 2022 and of each succeeding tenth year thereafter, and ***at any time council may, by vote of six of its members, call for such a commission.*** The charter review commission shall consist of two members appointed by the council, two members appointed by the mayor, and one member jointly appointed by the president of council and the mayor, such member serving as chair of the commission. Members of the commission shall not hold any other office or employment in the government of the city, and shall serve without compensation. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as prescribed for the original appointment. The commission shall be considered a public body. Within six months after appointment, the commission shall report its findings and recommendations regarding the charter, if any, to council. ***Council may at its discretion submit, in whole or in part, any of the proposed amendments to a vote of the people*** in the manner provided for by this charter. Any such amendment shall be in a form as provided by council. Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of council to submit any proposed charter amendment to a vote of the people as otherwise provided for in this charter.
- (Ord. No. 1747-2014, 7-21-2014)

Scope of work

- The Columbus City Charter is the equivalent of the Constitution for the City, setting the framework for all laws, adopted by the electors of Columbus in 1914.
- The Charter has been amended 53 times in its 102-year history
- Recently, commissions were convened in 1998, 1999, 2010 and 2014 to offer recommendations
 - The 1998, 1999 and 2010 reviews were episodic
 - The 2014 review was a comprehensive review

Scope of Work

“The Committee will look at the most successful cities across the country and research how their Councils are structured, as well as how vacancies are filled.”

- July 6 press release announcing the committee's formation

The Council in the City Charter

- Sec. 3 – Legislative powers
- Sec 4 – Council members
- Sec 5 – Vacancies
- Sec 5-1 – Temporary inability
- Sec 5-2 – Permanent inability
- Sec 6 – Qualifications of council members
- Sec 7 – Reserved
- Sec 8 – Meetings of council
- Sec 9 – Rules
- Sec 9-1 – Journal
- Sec 9-1 – Organization of council
- Sec 9-3 - Expelling, removing, forfeiting office
- Sec 10 – President of Council
- Sec 10-1 – President pro tempore of council
- Sec 10-2 Acting president pro tempore of council
- Sec 11 – The city clerk
- Sec 11-1 Duties of the city clerk
- Sec 11-2 The City Bulletin
- Sec 12 – Reserved
- Sec 13 – The city treasurer
- Sec 14 – Officers and employees
- Sec 15 – Compensation of officers and employees
- Sec 15-1 – Citizens’ commission on elected official compensation
- Sec 15-2 – Commission membership
- Sec 15-3 – Commission duties
- Sec 15-4 – Commission report
- Sec 15-5 Council action to establish salaries
- Sec 16 – Official bonds
- Sec 17 – Legislative procedure
- Sec 18 – {Action on ordinances or resolutions}

Recommendations

“The goal of the Committee is to report back to the community by February 2017. Any recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee to amend the Charter will require a vote of Council and the approval of Columbus voters.” – July 6 press release

Recommendations

- The committee shall report its findings and recommendations regarding the charter, if any, to Council.
- Council may at its discretion submit, in whole or in part, any of the proposed amendments to a vote of the people ”

Recommendations

Recommendations will derive from a majority of the Committee members. Other than amendments to the Columbus City Charter, options that may best serve the needs of our community include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Recommendation for changes to City Council policies or rules;
- Recommendation for adoption of ordinances;
- Recommendation for further study beyond the Committee's deliberations;
- Recommendation for no change.